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SCIENTIST SAYS KENNEDY SHOT FROM THE REAR

Narragansett, Rhode Island, Jan 2, Reuter -- The home movie of the assassination of President John F Kennedy reveals that he was shot in the hea from the rear -- not from the front -- as several assassination theories clai a scientist said on Saturday.

University of Rhode Island chemist Kenneth Rahn said he analysed the dramatic film by Abraham Zapruder and found that at the instant Kennedy was h -- a moment marked by the cloud of blood that appears around the face -- the president's head snapped forward 6.4cm.

It is not until a fraction of a second later, after the bullet passed through Kennedy's skull, that the president began to lurch backwards and to t right, he said.

That movement has convinced many people that the fatal shot must have com from a grassy knoll to Kennedy's right.

But Rahn, who usually studies the path of pollution particles in the atmosphere, said the laws of physics made it impossible for a bullet to move target after it had finished passing through.

Kennedy's backward lurch doesn't begin until about a 10th of a second aft the bullet passed through, Rahn said, a delay consistent with the time it wou take for reflexes to make his body jump back involuntarily.

Rahn became intrigued by the assassination movie after watching director Oliver Stone's controversial film JFK.

"There's no doubt that Oliver Stone believes that the fatal shot came fr the front and now there's no doubt he blew it big time," Rahn said.

A spokeswoman said the filmmaker was tied up with a new project and declined to comment.

Kennedy, killed in Dallas on November 22, 1963, was also struck in the throat before being shot in the head.

Zahn's theory is consistent with the Warren Commission's findings, which said the shot that hit Kennedy in the head came from above and to the rear. T commission concluded that Kennedy was killed by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Many conspiracy theories assert that Kennedy was killed by a shot from th front but Rahn said the forward snap of Kennedy's head, seen on frames 312 an 313 of the Zapruder film, destroyed most of these theories.

Rahn said it was still possible there was more than one assassin. But if other assassins pulled the trigger, he said, there was no convincing evidence their shots made any difference.

Rahn said his analysis required little more than a basic background in physics, a laserdisk version of JFK -- which permitted the detailed, frame-by frame analysis of the Zapruder film -- and tracing paper to compare the motio of Kennedy's head to immobile objects in the scene.

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